



Beyond the Telephone: Home Publishing

**Brewster Kahle
Thinking Machines Corporation
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What Good are Computers Anyway?

Balancing your checkbook is boring

Computer games are sterile

Spreadsheets are for businesses

Desktop publishing is better than a typewriter



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**Electronics, early on, were dull too,
until...**

Radio Broadcasts

Ham Radio Operators

Telephones became common

In other words, until communications.



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Computers and Communications

So Far:

Email

Bulletin Boards

Missed opportunities:

FAX

Answering Machines



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What might these boxes do?

Personal Newspaper:

**Less paper, more appropriate news;
but we need better screens.**

Personal Librarian:

An agent finding things you care about.

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Home Publishing?

WITH home publishers with something to say,

AND a "white pages" to list the publishers
(home or commercial),

THEN personal (computer) librarians
can find interesting info for us.

We would have a new medium and industry.



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Examples of Home Publishing

Electronic Mail

Bulletin Boards

Personal Movie Reviews

Home Gardening Tips

Baseball Card Auctions



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Sound Hard? Not with reasonable software.

To publish something:

Put your public files in a special place,

**Send in a computer form to the "white pages"
server so that others can find out about you,**

**Your computer answers your phone and
answers questions based on your files.**

Its as easy as writing on a word processor.

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Easy to use?

Describe your interests in English; home publishers try to suggest articles you might be interested in.

Use the "White Pages" to find interesting publishers.

Computer monitors your budget for phone charges and publisher fees.

Your computer can snoop around at night to find fun things.



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Further Possibilities

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Weather information and maps

Music and Video libraries

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